

REMARKS

Claims 13-18, 20-30 and 34-35 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ritchie (US 5857732). The Examiner is calling the adhesive 70 of Ritchie the spacing element. The adhesive 70 of Ritchie contacts the outer skin member 12 (which the Examiner is calling the outer panel element) and the intermediate shell 16 (which the Applicant believes the Examiner is calling the elongated stiffening member as shown in the Figure on the top of page 3 of the Office Action and that includes the metal reinforcing plates 50). However, the adhesive 70 does not contact any other component, specifically not a support element as claimed. Therefore, the claimed invention is not anticipated.

Further, assuming the Examiner is referring to the carrier plate assembly 18 as the support element (illustrated in the Figure on the top of page 3 of the Office Action; not numbered in Figure 5, but illustrated as surrounding the window glass 52), the adhesive 70 does not contact this component as claimed. Additionally, it is not possible for the adhesive 70 to contact the carrier plate assembly 18 as it is spaced away from the adhesive 70 and is sandwiched between the intermediate shell 16 and an interior trim member 20. Additionally, the presence of the hinge mechanism 80 or the locking mechanism 60 would prevent the adhesive 70 from contacting the carrier plate assembly 18. The claimed invention is not obvious, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

New impendent claim 42 is also not anticipated by Ritchie. Ritchie discloses a planar outer skin member 12 without any transverse portions. Additionally, it is not obvious to add transverse portions to the outer skin member 12 due to the presence of the partially assembled body 76 and the hinge mechanism 80 and the locking mechanism 60. The claimed invention is not anticipated or obvious in view of Ritchie.

Claims 33 and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ritchie (US5857732). Claims 33 and 36-37 depend on patentable independent claim 13 and allowable for the reasons set forth above.

No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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